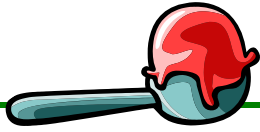


THE COUNTY SCOOP



Gallatin County

December 3, 2009

**“Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house;
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings all hung by the chimney with care,**

The holidays are upon us now. We've all stuffed our bellies on a satisfying Thanksgiving dinner; now it's time to dig out those decorations, set up those twinkle lights on the house and take the family to the woods in search of the perfect 2009 Christmas tree.

The weather has turned drastically cold over night it seems. We can only hope that this is just preparing us for a beautiful white Christmas. Main Streets all over the USA have decorated and brought in specialty items in hopes of enticing you to come inside (out of the cold) to purchase the perfect gift for one of your family members or friends.

Christmas Strolls begin this weekend around our County, as well as many other fun events (see the calendar of events on page 6). So go ahead and jump in with both feet to the holiday spirit of celebrating with friends and family, enjoying the gift of giving, and remembering all we have to be thankful for this year!

Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
For loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away
Like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf,
The good you do for others is good you do yourself.

Norman W. Brooks

News Regarding Gallatin County's Annual Christmas Party

Last month a survey was sent out to each department asking if you wished to continue this year by holding our annual Christmas Party with the limited funds available, or to let it keep accruing and skip this year. There was also an option regarding a potluck style luncheon.

The votes have been tallied and the outcome was overwhelming to not hold a Christmas party this year.

Since there are quite a few of you who would still like to do something and opted for that potluck luncheon, **we have booked the Community Room on Thursday, December 17th from noon-1:30PM for the potluck luncheon. All County employees and spouses are welcome to come!** Please contact Crystal or Glenda in the Commission Office at 582-3000 if you have any questions.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: PlayStation (the original one) with 2 controllers. \$10

Call 579-1849 if you're interested (could be a fun white elephant gift?)



DECEMBER BLUE JEAN DAYS

4TH—\$2 for the Bozeman Daily Chronicle-elected "Christmas Wish Foundation"

16TH—\$2 benefits the "Friends of Treatment Court" Program which purchases backpacks with day planners and alarm clocks for new participants, as well as birthday or special event cards and graduation presents.

28TH—\$2 benefits the Employee of the Month fund

Gallatin Rest Home

AUXILIARY

Holiday Bazaar

Fund Raiser

Baked Goods

Beautiful Crafts and Gifts

Friday, December 4th * 8:30am – 4pm

And

Saturday, December 5th * 9am – 2pm



The Gallatin Rest Home Auxiliary welcomes donations of craft items or baked goods up to the day before the annual Holiday Bazaar sale (on Friday December 4th). Please contact the Activity



The Gallatin County Commissioners are pleased to Introduce Dave Fowler as “Employee of the Month” in November

From the Road & Bridge Department: Dave has worked for Gallatin County since May of 1988. He started as a mechanic and after several years was promoted to the Shop Foreman/Assistant Superintendent. In 1997 Dave was appointed as the Director of the Junk Vehicle Program. For nearly a year during 1999 & 2000 he was the interim Road and Bridge Superintendent. What Dave enjoys most about his job is the people he works with. Dave's favorite thing about working for Gallatin County is that he is proud to be able to be a part of the progress the Road and Bridge Department has made over the years, from general improvements, to the quality of the roads, to the upgrades in the equipment fleet. He also enjoys being able to make a difference in people's lives by helping to improve public safety. Before coming to work for Gallatin County, Dave was a Parts Manager for a local truck distributor, a Mechanic/Tow Truck Operator for a locally owned repair shop, and a Mechanic for a gravel production company. During his free time Dave enjoys coaching and watching his grandkids' sporting events. He also enjoys driving, working on and watching stockcars. Dave grew up here in the valley and has been married to his wife, Della, for 44 wonderful years. They have three boys: Dwayne, Darren, and Dean, and are also blessed with seven grandchildren.

And from Dave's co-workers:

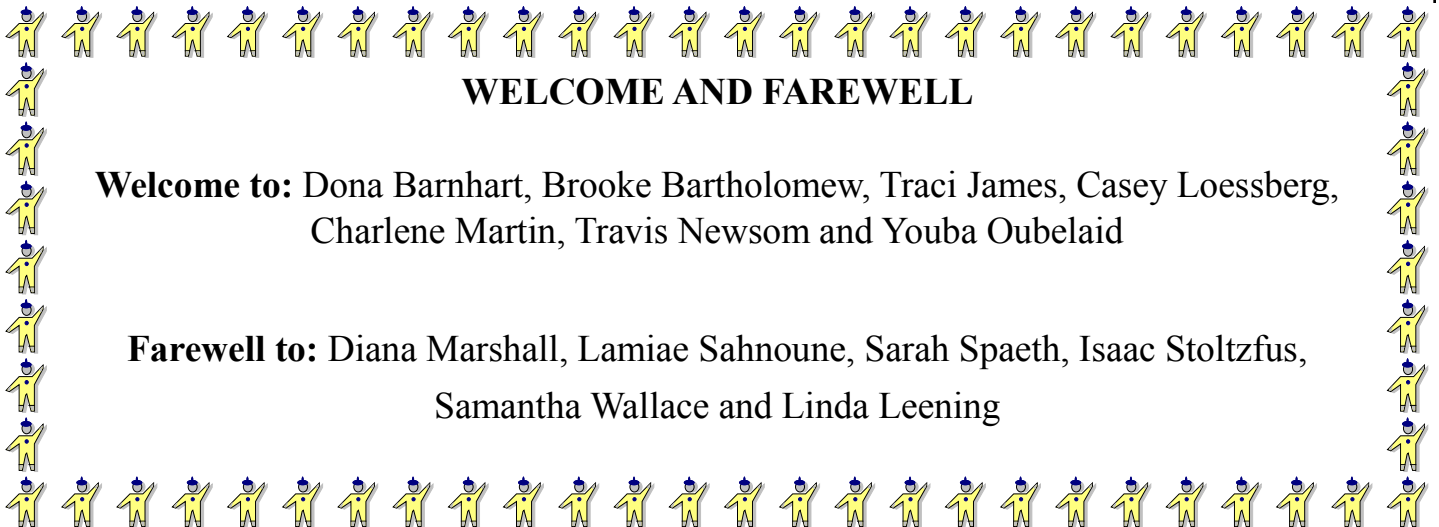
He's always way early to work and he's always way late to leave (at no cost to the County)

He's always willing to help everyone (all departments too)

His shortcoming is that he'd rather be at work than burn his excess vacation and comp time.

Way to go Dave! Keep up the excellent work and thank you for all you contribute to Gallatin County!

Keep those nominations coming in! It is always nice to hear the wonderful things co-workers say about each other; it makes it very difficult for to choose just one each month!



WELCOME AND FAREWELL

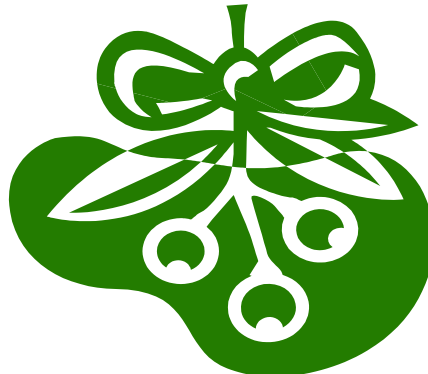
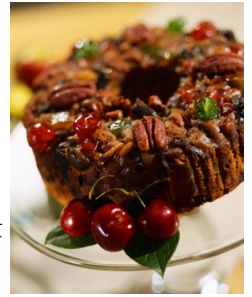
Welcome to: Dona Barnhart, Brooke Bartholomew, Traci James, Casey Loessberg, Charlene Martin, Travis Newsom and Youba Oubelaid

Farewell to: Diana Marshall, Lamiae Sahnoune, Sarah Spaeth, Isaac Stoltzfus, Samantha Wallace and Linda Leening

MONTHLY MUSING

Ho, ho, (w)ho else is ready for some Christmas cookies?

The holidays are a crazy time of year. People are cheerful, people are grumpy, and people are just trying to survive 'til January. The weather's changing, roads are slick and/or bumpy (like railroad tracks! Wheeee!), Christmas music is everywhere, and we're all attempting to find the perfect gift for the important people in our lives. Ironically (after the year it's been) banks are offering Christmas loans so we can afford those gifts now...and start out the year a little more in debt? So of course almost everyone's a little more stressed. But never fear! Holiday parties are here! Since the holidays are about spending time with friends and family, there's going to be at least a couple Christmas parties around town, where you can mix and mingle with folks. Special, delicious foods you only see this time of year appear to nibble on. Tasty drinks are awfully good with those nibbles (be extra careful on the road if you're partaking in alcoholic beverages, be sure to have a designated driver lined up for you) and Secret Santa's give goofy gifts. Make sure to take a minute—or 73—for yourself this month, while you're standing in line to buy that one thing you just *have* to get for that one person, and remember—you're going to get your holiday shopping done in July next year and you're *not* going to get annoyed with that one kooky relative this year. It's the holidays—eat fruitcake and be merry!



Holiday Decorating Contest

This year the County will be doing the annual Office Decorating Contest again. A team of impartial and highly professional judges is being assembled to assess the quality and creativity of decorations. These folks have no affiliation to Gallatin County and will perform judging on December 17th.

If your office intends to participate please inform Wendy or Earl (x 3008) by December 11th so that we can direct the judges to the appropriate locations. There will be a reward for the winner, along with bragging rights for a year.

HUMAN RESOURCE'S NEWS

REMINDER: We all will be receiving new ID Health Benefit Cards from Allegiance around the third week in December 2009. These new ID Cards will be **effective January 1, 2010.** Our Pharmacy company has changed to Cigna and is no longer Express Scripts. All you will need to do is present your new card to your pharmacy effective January 1, 2010. The pharmacy plans will continue to work the same. To keep all claims processing running smoothly, you will need to show your ID Card to your Pharmacy and providers at each visit.

~You may have received a Temporary ID Card in the mail from Cigna. You will only need to use this Temporary card if you have not yet received your new ID Card from Allegiance by January 1, 2010.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

REMINDER

~Participants have until December 31, 2009 to use their current Flex Plan dollars. All claims must be filed by February 28, 2010.

~If you did not select Joint Processing, claim forms can be picked up in the Human Resource's office or can be found on the web at www.abpmtpa.com/flex_forms.

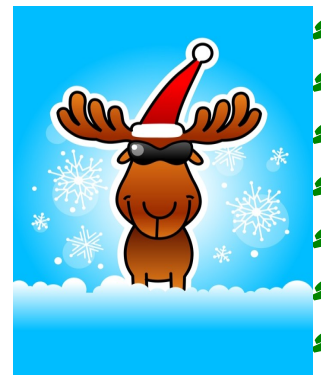


SPECIAL THANKS

A Special Thanks goes out to
all of you
for your cooperation in
making our 2010 Open Enrollment run smoothly.



We wish you all a very
Happy and Safe Holiday
Season!!



Did you know...?



- ♦ The use of Christmas wreaths as a decoration on your front door, mantel or bay window symbolizes a sign of welcome and long life to all who enter.



- ♦ Today poinsettias are the most popular Christmas plant & are the #1 flowering potted plant in the US. The poinsettia, a traditional Christmas flower (originally grown in Mexico) where it is also known as the “Flower of the Holy Night,” Joel Poinsett first brought it to American in 1829.
- ♦ Regarding Christmas trees: real Christmas trees are an all-American product, grown in all 50 states including Alaska & Hawaii. CA, OR, MI, WA, WI, PA and NC are the top Christmas tree producing states. Oregon is the leading producer of trees—8.6 billion in 1998!
- ♦ Christmas trees are edible too! Many parts of pines, spruces and firs can be eaten. The needles are a good source of Vitamin C, and pine nuts or cones are also a good source of nutrition. For every tree harvested, 2 to 3 seedlings are planted in its place. Each hectare (about 100-acres of trees) provides the daily oxygen requirements for 45 people.



Have a safe and happy holiday season by following these safety tips:

- ♦ **TREES** If purchasing a real tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green and the needles are hard to remove when pulled. If purchasing an artificial tree be sure it says it’s “Fire Resistant.” When setting up your tree, place it away from fireplaces and furnaces/radiators. Because heated rooms dry trees out quickly, be sure to keep your real tree stand full of water at all times.
- ♦ **LIGHTS** Check each set of lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections—and throw out damaged sets. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged from faulty light and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- ♦ **PAPER** Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4TH—	THREE FORKS CHRISTMAS STROLL (MAIN STREET)
	BELGRADE CHAMBER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS (MAIN STREET)
5TH—	BOZEMAN CHRISTMAS STROLL (MAIN STREET)
	BOOTS & BELLES CHRISTMAS BALL (BUCK’S T-4, BIG SKY)
8TH—	WEST YELLOWSTONE TOWN CHRISTMAS PARTY (POVAH CENTER)
9TH—	HOLIDAY HOME TOUR (CLUB @ SPANISH PEAKS, BIG SKY)
11TH—	BIG SKY CHRISTMAS STROLL (MEADOW VILLAGE)
17TH—	JUDGING OF OFFICE DECORATIONS CONTEST
	HOLIDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON (COURTHOUSE COMMUNITY ROOM)
18TH—	TREATMENT COURT GIFT-GIVING SESSION
25TH—	CHRISTMAS DAY (OFFICES CLOSED)